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I was so intent on clapping a cage over the creature to capture him that I failed to observe his method of devouring his prey.

ISABEL McCRACKEN,  
*Stanford University, Calif.*

## TOAD (*BUFO VULGARIS*) PROFUSION.

Having been informed that a great number of "frogs" were to be seen in a pond at Burtonwood near Warrington, Lancashire, I visited the place on March 24, 1918, and was very much surprised to find a large number of toads (*Bufo vulgaris*). There was not a solitary frog, nor any signs of frog spawn. I again visited the pond on March 25, together with Mr. Lin. Greening, and made the following observations:

"The water in the pond to a width of about 2 feet from the bank and the banks also, for some distance inland, were swarming with these Batrachians. In the small weedy bays around the pool I counted many groups. Three of the bays, measuring only 2 feet across, contained respectively the following numbers: 50 pairs, 40 pairs, and 30 pairs. The pond is roughly 300 feet in circumference, and the toads were all around in greater or lesser numbers. There was a great quantity of spawn and evidently many of the toads had left the pond. Many were also seen making their way towards the water. After counting many groups I made a calculation and estimated that the total number in the pond and on the banks was not less than 8,000; this in my opinion, being below rather than above the number seen."

I also visited several other ponds in the same locality and only in two were toads to be seen, and then only in small numbers. I spend much time in this neighborhood, and usually a very few toads are to be seen.

WILLIAM WEBSTER,  
*Warrington, England.*